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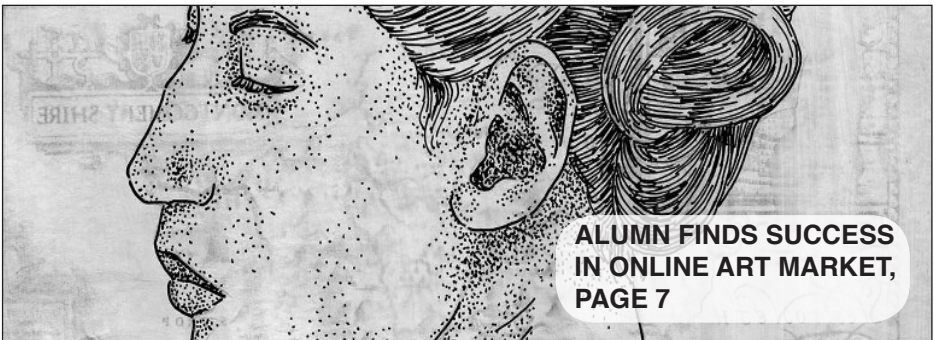
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MAKE YOUR VOICE
HEARD: VOTE THIS
ELECTION

THE ADVOCATE

online at msumadvocate.com

Tuesday, October 28, 2014 MSUM's weekly student newspaper Moorhead, Minn. Vol. 44 Issue 7

Partial solar eclipse awes viewing party attendees



ETHAN DEGREE • degreeet@mnstate.edu

Participants of Thursday's viewing party hosted by the Department of Physics and Astronomy in cooperation with the F-M Astronomy Club allowed attendees the chance to view a partial solar eclipse using eclipse glasses, solar filtered telescopes, and pinhole projectors.

Cities compared: Moorhead utilities too expensive

BY MARIE VEILLETTE
veillette@mnstate.edu

When Nick Luetmer received his first utility bill last August at his newly rented apartment in Moorhead, just blocks from MSUM campus, he was relieved. The bill totaled around \$18, much lower than he was expecting to pay for a month's worth of water and electricity.

His monthly rent for his one bedroom apartment was set at \$395— as much as he could afford with a part-time job, especially when utility and internet costs were added.

Luetmer had lived in university residence halls for two years; one year at NDSU and one at MSUM. He was ready to get away from the uncertainty of assigned roommates and find a place he could call his own. Though being a first time renter also came with uncertainties, the excitement of having no shared space where roommates wouldn't complain about his routines or habits outweighed everything else.

The feeling of relief delivered with the first utility bill was quickly replaced

with worry. Upon closer inspection, Luetmer discovered his bill was only for six days of the month. Having moved toward the end of a billing cycle, the \$18 charge only covered about one week. He dreaded to think what a whole month would cost him.

Luetmer is not the only student renter to be surprised with the cost of utilities in Moorhead. A growing number of MSUM students are choosing to live across the border where all or most utilities are frequently included in rent.

April Olson Mata, regional manager with Goldmark Property Management who rents units on both sides of the river, said her company has noticed variances between Moorhead and Fargo utilities.

"One difference we have noticed in regards to utilities between cities is that there are more fees in Moorhead," she said. "For example, the owners [of a building] pay the garbage for the residents in Moorhead; however, regardless if you live in any apartment in the city or in a house, Moorhead Public Service has a garbage fee on each bill, too."

UTILITIES, PAGE 3

States differ in voting requirements

BY ELLEN ROSSOW
rossowel@mnstate.edu

Election Day is fast approaching. With polls opening in just a week, a decent understanding of state voting laws is vital to an effective and efficient voting experience.

As many MSUM students are residents of surrounding states, the laws of various states, particularly Minnesota and North Dakota, have potential to effect a voter's experience at the polls.

Where is home?

Regardless of state, it is essential for a voter to decide where they plan to claim residency. As a college student, this decision is especially important, as voters often have more than one place they call "home"— their hometown and their college town.

After choosing the state in which to claim one's residency, one must adhere to that state's voter registration laws.

Registration

Minnesota requires voter registration for its residents. The deadline for this registration has already passed for this election, but the state offers the ability to register on Election Day at your polling site. However, this may lead to a longer time

spent at the polls.

For North Dakota residents, voter registration is not required.

Voter ID laws

If Minnesota voters have followed the proper registration procedures, additional ID is not required on Election Day. Minnesotans can check the status of their registration at mnvotes.sos.mn.us/voterstatus.

For voters that are aware of incomplete registration, have changed their name or address, or haven't voted within the last four years, proof of residence must be provided on Election Day.

Acceptable forms of ID include:

1. A drivers license with the voter's current address
2. A drivers license with an old address accompanied by a document with a current address
3. Another registered voter who can confirm your name and address, accompanied by a college ID
4. A college ID accompanied by a student housing list
5. Notice of late registration — a voter would receive this upon registering after the cutoff date of Oct 14.

VOTING, BACK

Briefs

CAMPUS CALENDAR 10.28 - 10.31

| | | | |
|-------|--|------|---|
| 10.29 | 7 – 10 p.m. Spooky Halloween Grocery Bag Bingo, CMU ballroom | 11.1 | 6 – 9 p.m. African Night 2014, CMU ballroom |
| 10.30 | 5:30 – 8 p.m. Trunk-or-Treat, lot G-6 | | 9:30 p.m. – 1 a.m. Tri-College Drag Show and Karaoke, NDSU Memorial Union in the Great Plains room |
| 10.31 | 4:45 p.m. Trick-or-Canning, CMU main lounge | 11.4 | 7 – 8 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. MSUM mock pageant, CMU ballroom |
| | 9 p.m. – 1 a.m. Dragons AfterDark Halloween dance, Kise Commons | | |

SENATE UPDATE 10.23 Meeting

- A public forum with Dragon Entertainment outreach coordinator Nick Newell discussed upcoming events on campus.
 - Makayla Swenson was appointed to Academic Affairs Chair and Emily Hartwig was appointed as an Off-Campus Senator.
 - A town hall meeting regarding Charting the Future will take place Wednesday at 6 p.m. in Library room 103.
- Students are invited to attend Senate meetings Thursdays at 6 p.m. in CMU 205.*

SECURITY UPDATE 10.16 - 10.22

| | |
|---|---|
| 10.17: | Contact made, individual escorted off campus |
| • Vandalism of control booth equipment reported in Nemzek | 10.21: |
| 10.18: | • Vehicle hit and run reported in lot G-1. Moorhead Police Report taken |
| • Bicycle stolen from bike rack near Grantham | 10.22: |
| • Fire alarm activated in Dahl due to burnt Pop Tart | • Suspicious Activity reported in Center for the Arts. Shirtless male seen on surveillance video. |
| 10.20: | |
| • Disorderly conduct reported in Owens. | |

Safety Tip of the Week
To report a problem, contact Public Safety at 218.477.2449.

Celebrate safely
If walking out late on Halloween, be sure to walk on sidewalks or on the far edge of the road facing traffic.

The Advocate

Minnesota State University Moorhead
Box 130 Moorhead, MN 56563
Comstock Memorial Union Room 110
Advertising: 218-477-2365
advocate@mnstate.edu
www.msomadadvocate.com

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Opinions expressed in The Advocate are not necessarily those of the college administration, faculty or student body.

The Advocate encourages letters to the editor. They should be typed and must include the writer's name, signature, address, phone number, year in school or occupation and any affiliations. Letters are due by 5 p.m. Friday and can be sent to MSUM Box 130, dropped off at The Advocate office in CMU Room 110 or emailed to us at advocate@mnstate.edu. The Advocate reserves the right to edit letters and refuse publication of letters omitting requested information. It does not guarantee the publication of any letter.

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The Advocate is always looking for talented writers, photographers, columnists and illustrators.

Contact the editor for more information or attend staff meetings on Sunday evenings.

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Cameron Seibold, online editor
Kristin Miller, copy editor
Zana Pommier, copy editor
Robert Plemel, business manager

MSUM Briefs

Cinethusiasts Film Club will host Halloween film screening

MSUM's Cinethusiasts Film Club will host a screening of the silent horror classic "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" on Thursday, Oct. 30 in Glasrud Auditorium in Weld. The film will be accompanied by pipe-organ music performed by Dave Knudtson, a member of the Red River Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society. The screening will begin at 8 p.m. and is free and open to the public. For more info contact Tom Brandau at 218-477-2950 or brandau@mnstate.edu.

Information panel will discuss scholarships

Minnesota State University Student Association (MSUSA) and MSUM Office of Scholarship and Financial Aid will host a panel info session on Tuesday, Oct. 28 in CMU 101 from noon-1 p.m. Snacks will be provided. The session will focus on two

scholarship programs: Honors Apprenticeship and Penny Scholarships and Fellowships. Applications for the Penny Scholarships are due Nov. 1.

Career fair aims to connect students to employers

Students are encouraged to register for the MSUM Internship and Career Fair, which will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 5 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. in the CMU Ballroom. More than 55 employers will visit campus to discuss jobs and internships in various fields including marketing, management, construction management, technology and social services. Professional dress and copies of resumes are recommended. Students who register before Oct. 29 will receive a pre-printed name tag. To register, log in to DragonJobs or follow this link: <http://ow.ly/CSmTb>.

Applications for Eurospring due Nov. 7

Applications for Eurospring, a five-week, 20-credit study abroad program, are due Nov. 7. Participants will study in Oxford, England before a three-week tour of Europe. The program is limited to 20 students with a minimum 2.5 GPA. Students can apply in Bridges 249. For more information, Contact Janet Haak at haak@mnstate.edu.

Trick-or-Canning volunteers needed

Students are invited to help with "trick-or-canning" efforts to collect food for Fill the Dome. Volunteers will meet in the main lounge of the CMU on Oct. 31 at 4:45 p.m. and return by 7:30 to drop off the cans they've collected. Dragon gear or appropriate costumes are recommended, as well as comfortable walking shoes.

World News

Two students dead, four wounded in shooting at Washington state high school

Two students are dead and four others remain in critical condition after a shooting at a Washington state high school on Friday. Homecoming king Jaylen Fryberg, 14, opened fire in his high school's cafeteria, severely injuring four students, one of whom was his cousin, and killing another before turning the gun on himself. Though Fryberg's motives are still unclear, witnesses say this was not a random shooting; Fryberg had specific targets. In a report from Reuters, school officials, fellow students and their parents suggest that conflicts in Fryberg's life, including rejection from a girl and a dispute on his football team, may have triggered the violence.

Six more states legalize same-sex marriage

The federal government will recognize same-sex marriage in another six states and extend federal benefits to those couples, Attorney General Eric Holder announced on Saturday. The news comes after the legalization of same-sex marriage in Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, North Carolina, West Virginia and Wyoming and the Supreme Court's decision to decline to hear appeals from five states that sought to keep their marriage bans in place.

The total number of states with federal recognition of gay marriage is now up to 32, plus the District of Columbia.

Hanged Iranian Woman Leaves Last Message

Reyhaneh Jabbari, the 26-year-old Iranian woman who was hanged in prison on Saturday as punishment for allegedly killing the man she said tried to rape her, left an emotional last message in her will and testament. Jabbari, a university-educated interior designer, spent five years on death row for the killing of former intelligence official Morteza Abdolali Sarbandi, who lured her to an empty house in 2007 under the pretext of getting her ideas on how to redecorate his office. Jabbari previously said that if she had not stabbed her attacker in the back with a penknife, the incident would have ended with her murder. "My body would have been thrown in some corner of the city," she wrote, addressing her mother. "And after a few days, the police would have taken you to the coroner's office to identify my body and there you would also have learnt that I had been raped as well...The murderer would have never been found since we don't have their wealth and power." Jabbari and her mother were allowed one last one-hour meeting

on Friday to say goodbye. In her will, Jabbari wrote that her last wish was for her organs to be donated anonymously to "someone who needs them." "I don't want to rot in the soil," she wrote. She also told her mother not to wear black. "I wish I could have hugged you until I died," she wrote.

UK, US Marines end Afghan combat operations

British forces and American Marines formally ended their combat operations in Afghanistan after 13 years on Sunday in a ceremony at Camp Bastion and Camp Leatherneck in Helmand province. NATO forces lowered the British and U.S. flags there and handed the bases over to the Afghan forces now responsible for the war against Taliban insurgents. "It is with pride that we announce the end of U.K. combat operations in Helmand, having given Afghanistan the best possible chance of a stable future," said United Kingdom defense secretary Michael Fallon in a statement. In a later interview with the BBC, Fallon admitted that there was no guarantee Afghanistan would now be stable and safe. "I think the generals have been clear that mistakes were made. Mistakes were made militarily and mistakes were made by the politicians at the time," he said.

UTILITIES, FROM FRONT

| Comparing Fargo and Moorhead: <i>Utility costs and fees</i> | | |
|--|--|--|
| Utility | Fargo | Moorhead |
| Water: | Customer charge based on water meter size - includes usage up to 2,000 gallons - no seasonal adjustment of rates | Customer charge based on water meter size - additional charge for every gallon used - usage rates adjust seasonally |
| Sewer: | Fixed cost of \$16 per month | Fixed cost of \$14.82 per month |
| Garbage: | Commercial properties can use private collector Rates vary by container size - Small \$6, Medium \$9, Large \$14 | All customers pay fee even if garbage privately collected Rates vary by container size - Small/Apt \$9.46, Medium \$11.76, Large \$16.63 |
| Stormwater: | Fixed cost of \$3 per month | Fixed cost of \$10.21 per month |
| Forestry: | Fixed cost of \$3.50 per month | Fixed cost of \$4.18 per month |
| Pest Control | Fixed cost of \$1.00 per month | Fixed cost of \$2.70 per month |
| Street Lighting | Fixed cost of \$2.50 per month | No fee |
| Recycling: | No fee | Fixed cost of \$2.84 per month - All residents pay regardless of service usage |
| Electricity: | Service not offered through city | Customer charge of \$10.70 per month - additional charge for every kWh used - rates adjust seasonally |

GRAPHIC BY MARIE VEILLETTE

Mata is referring to a charge of \$9.46, assessed to each unit in a complex, to cover the cost of garbage collection. Many buildings opt to rent a dumpster through a private company, as Moorhead does not offer collections on containers that large.

No matter whether a customer of Moorhead Public Service uses the garbage service, each one is assessed the charge.

This was the case for Luetmer. His landlords rented a dumpster for the four-plex to use, but he still paid the fee each month.

“I thought I was paying to use the dumpster,” Luetmer said. “I didn’t know I was paying \$10 for something I wasn’t getting.”

Both Fargo and Moorhead assess fees to their customers for various services. Each city charges a forestry and pest control fee. Fargo charges \$3.50 per month in forestry

fees, while Moorhead charges \$4.18. Pest control was also lower in Fargo at \$1.00 compared to \$2.70 in Moorhead.

There are some differences in fees between cities. Fargo charges a \$2.50 street lighting fee, whereas Moorhead does not.

Moorhead charges all customers a monthly recycling fee of \$2.84. Fargo does not have any fee regarding recycling. Similar to the garbage charge, recycling is charged to every customer, regardless of if they utilize it.

All these little charges may not sound like anything to sweat about, but the small add-on fees accumulate quickly.

Between garbage, forestry, pest control and recycling, renters pay at least \$230 per year in Moorhead before any water or electricity fees are included.

In Fargo, the fees are \$156 per

year. The likelihood of a renter to pay them directly is low, since Fargo adjusts the fees for commercial buildings that can divvy up the costs across units.

A main factor that keeps costs low for Fargo renters is how their electricity is supplied. The city of Fargo does not offer this utility. Customers get a separate bill, usually from Xcel Energy or Otter Tail Power Company.

Both companies have a low customer charge, between \$8 and \$15 per month, and compatible rates for usage as to what MPS offers.

The main difference is customers are not charged any of those added fees. Excel and Otter Tail simply charge customer and usage fees.

To obtain power through MPS, residents pay customer and usage fees as well as all the add-on charges of the city.

The one place Moorhead seems

to be more affordable is in their water costs.

Both Fargo and Moorhead have a customer charge and adjust their charges according to the size of the meter: the larger the width, the greater the cost.

The most common size meter incurs a cost of \$8.50 per month in Fargo and \$7.70 in Moorhead. Fargo’s customer charge includes the first 2,000 gallons of water used, whereas Moorhead’s fee does not include any usage; customers pay an added fee from gallon one. Even with this added fee, Moorhead offers a cheaper rate at all sizes of meter besides the most common.

Residents of Fargo and Moorhead see both a wastewater and stormwater charge on their monthly bills. Fargo’s \$16 wastewater fee comes in a little higher than Moorhead’s at \$14.82. Fargo lowered this fee in January from \$19

to the current rate.

Stormwater fees are where the greatest price differences between the two cities can be seen. Moorhead charges \$10.21, while Fargo only charges \$3.

Though Fargo and Moorhead do not deviate in prices all that much, the fees Moorhead charges to all of its customers hurt renters the most because they end up paying for them twice: once directly through their bill and once in the costs included in rent.

Rachel Tengwall, a psychology senior, moved into her first off-campus apartment in August. She was also surprised by the high cost of her utilities.

“I was expecting them to be like \$35 or \$40, not \$70 or \$80,” she said.

Tengwall’s landlord is a private renter, and covers the cost of water for the four-plex, but the rest is her responsibility. With the onset of winter, her bills are only going to increase with the addition of heating costs.

The building she lives in is older, and not as efficient in holding in heat or using electricity as the newer buildings going up in Fargo.

Tengwall admitted her apartment search was limited to Fargo when she first started looking.

“I would have made the commute [to school],” she said.

After getting a job in Moorhead, Tengwall said she decided it would be more practical to stay in Minnesota. Though she doesn’t regret where she ended up, she said she is nervous about how much her upcoming bills will increase.

Bill Schwandt, general manager with MPS did not have good news for Moorhead renters. He said rates are expected to increase six and a half percent for water and five to six percent for electricity, effective Jan. 1, 2015. Both of these rates already adjust seasonally to coincide with differences in demand.

It is important to remember each state mandates different fees. Moorhead is not the only city to have many of the fees it charges to residents.

Steve Sprague, Fargo city auditor, said it is hard to say if the economic uptick and increasing population have affected the utility rates. The increasing number of customers paying in is equaled out by the costs of expanding service to the growing edges of Fargo, he said.

Luetmer, who moved to Fargo this June, says he could not be happier with his new apartment. He now pays around \$400 per month for rent and utilities, compared to the \$550 or \$600 he was paying in Moorhead.

The only utility he pays directly is electricity, which he says has not exceeded \$40 since he moved in.

“I still can’t believe I live in a place this nice and can afford it, too,” he said.

Tengwall said she plans to move to Minneapolis after she graduates and her lease is up, but added she would probably move to Fargo if she were staying in the area.

“I feel like in Fargo they have nicer apartments,” she said. “Not just apartments, but a lot of things. That sucks for MSUM students.”


RE-ELECT

BEN LIEN

MN HOUSE 4A

TUESDAY,

Nov. 4



PREPARED AND PAID FOR BY THE LIEN FOR MINNESOTA 4A COMMITTEE 403 8TH ST S #317 MOORHEAD, MN 56560

Opinion

November 4th and the importance of voting: *Destroy apathy, create alchemy*



BYJESSY HEGLAND
heglandje@mnstate.edu

A week from now is Nov. 4th — the day we have the explicit chance to stand up, speak out, and make a difference.

I was 20 years old during the 2008 election between Barack Obama and John McCain, and I was too jaded and apathetic to care. I thought my vote really didn't matter.

I didn't vote and I regret it. After thinking about all the fighting that took place to ensure my right to vote, I had the audacity to feel apathetic

and not participate because I was manipulated to believe my vote and voice do not matter.

Where did I get that idea?

It was the 2000 election between George W. Bush and Al Gore. I saw that Gore won the popular vote, and Bush still became president. I was young, but I could understand what numbers meant.

My mom explained the Electoral College to me, but for many years after I felt like it was all just one big sham. It's like choosing between two evils. This so-called democracy has turned into an oligarchy that's a safe haven for corporations but a battleground for the rest of us. Money should not buy elections and policies; our voices should count.

But that's what those in power want us to think—that we are powerless. This demographic — the college student demographic — is powerful. We just need to realize it. Why do you think those in power are trying to make it so hard for anyone to vote? It's because they know we can sway elections.

The measures that will be voted on in North Dakota this election cycle impact all of us. The political has become highly personal, and it's vital now more than ever to pay attention; to double and triple check sources,

and to think critically about what these measures mean. One of the measures, Measure 1, will impact all of life as we know it.

I urge you all to vote NO on Measure 1. It states the inalienable right to life of every human being at any stage of development. This would impact families' rights to plan through IVF services (In Vitro Fertilization for families that can't otherwise have children and want them). This would also impact end of life care (the wishes of yourself and loved ones will not be respected should the measure pass), and would also affect a woman's right to her own body, even if she is a victim of incest, rape, or a life-threatening pregnancy.

If a woman has a miscarriage, she would be put under investigation. If your loved one is in a coma or vegetative state and has "do not resuscitate" written on their living will, *that will not be respected*. I believe my parents and older relatives deserve to have their wishes respected.

I am voting NO on Measure 1 because I believe that the government does not have the right to make personal decisions for us. I am voting NO because I believe in the separation of church and state. I am voting NO because I believe

the true way to end abortion is through education and birth control (which has been proven to work). I am voting NO because I believe the government is not a doctor. I am voting NO because I believe that women are human beings. I am voting NO because this measure is poorly worded and is going to impact *all of us*. Get to the polls, sign up for an absentee ballot and vote because all of our lives depend on it.

I just sent in my absentee ballot. If you are a North Dakota resident, you can get your absentee ballot here: vip.sos.nd.gov/absentee/.

If you are not a North Dakota resident, I still urge you to think about it and tell other people about this vote. This vote is even going to impact Minnesota because people in the state still use the services at North Dakota hospitals.

This voting season is one of the most crucial and important in our lives. If we don't do something about it now, we are going to regret it in the future. Right now, the present, is the chance to change the course of history. Destroy the apathy that society has created around us 20-somethings to fall into and instead create alchemy to unite our voices to shape the world we believe should exist. We have had the power all along.

Early rising improves grades, positivity, focus



BY CRYSTAL BRANDEN
brandencr@mnstate.edu

For most college students, the idea of a 5 a.m. wake-up call is not only revolting, but stressful as well. Imagine actually waking up early, hours before class, on purpose.

For many students, staying up late is a real problem. This goes hand-in-hand with procrastination and

results in the difficult task of waking up with less than the recommended seven to nine hours of sleep. Perhaps waking up early is a solution to success that college students do not necessarily want to hear.

In the early hours of the morning, many people are not awake and not online on any social media. This provides a time where assignments, homework and other things can be done with little to no interruptions or distractions.

Along with the lack of distractions, the morning is also proven to be the best time to retain information. By waking up a few hours before class, one can focus solely on what needs to be done or completed.

Of course, to adjust, one has to go to sleep earlier. Though an early morning wake-up schedule can be hindering at times, being up and ready for class is a great reward in itself. A common trend in early morning classes is grogginess, and some are still half-asleep. When one wakes up earlier, the grogginess of the morning is gone by the time class starts.

In turn, waking up early provides your body the time to adjust. Instead of focusing in and out of a morning lecture, your notes can be concise and legible. You will actually know what is going on instead of wondering what the discussion was about when it comes to completing assignments and applying what was discussed.

Plus, if living off-campus is the situation, waking up earlier will make for an easier commute to campus. With less people on the roads, reaching campus will take less time, and finding a great parking spot will be easier. With the winter season quickly approaching, waking up early can also help off-campus students get to class on time on days with unforeseen circumstances — like having to scrape windshields and shovel driveways.

The first hour of one's day and how it is spent often sets the tone for the rest of the day. By waking up earlier, you start to reduce the stress in your life by eliminating the need to rush in the mornings. Taking the time to eat a healthy breakfast and

relax can change your attitude and bring about a healthier lifestyle. Plus running to class is no longer a problem if you wake up early and are prepared instead of sprinting across campus at the last minute.

In my experience, waking up early leaves me more energized, positive and less stressed. I have given myself time to focus on my studies without Netflix, YouTube, Facebook, etc. by waking up early.

Being up and running early in the morning psychs me up for the rest of the day and leaves me in a focused mindset.

Though I have noticed keeping this early morning wake up schedule is difficult when going to bed at 9 p.m. is uncommon, the silent hours of the morning have helped me achieve better grades and improved my quality of sleep.

Although some may view this concept with judgmental disgust, with the right amount of sleep, waking up early can be the answer to energizing your life and it could potentially improve your educational performance.

Opinion

Charities: the not-so-non-profit truth



BY ALEXANDRA TOLLEFSON
tollefsonal@mnstate.edu

Like any Minnesotan worth their salt, every Sunday I check the score of the football game just to see how badly the Vikings got it handed to them this time. But a couple weeks ago, I noticed something when I flipped on the news to watch the sports commentary: pink. Pink gloves. Pink towels. Pink socks. Pink everywhere! Then it dawned on me — October is Breast Cancer Awareness month.

This is a fact I feel a bit ashamed for not remembering, considering my

family history. Both of my grandparents have had cancer, my aunt had cancer, my stepfather had a cancer scare and now my dad is currently fighting off the disease, too. Needless to say, cancer has played a pretty big part in my life.

When I saw all the pink, I wondered to myself how much was actually being done to develop a cure for cancer. We see all this pink, all these ribbons covering everything from football players to yogurt bottles and everything in between, but how much of all this money being raised actually goes to the researchers? Better yet, how much do charities in general actually donate? This is what I set off to find out.

Turns out, a lot of other people are asking the same questions. At least we know people are being careful with their money. I read a couple articles on the topic, one from the Huffington Post and another from CNN's Money page. Both told me relatively the same thing: do your own research first.

Giving blindly is exactly what charities want you to do. Money first, questions later. This is a good strategy for those charities that give less than 50 percent of their profits to their cause. And there are organizations that do this. It wasn't hard to find a list of America's 50 worst charities, a list I find more than a little unsettling.

But what set my blood pressure

skyrocketing was the fact that of the fifty, ten of them were cancer charities. The fact that someone decided to take an issue that is so serious and has caused so much pain over the years and profit from it makes me sick.

This list, put together last year by the Tampa Bay Times and the Center for Investigative Reporting, not only shows the names of those charities, but just how much (or in this case, little) actually went to research and aid. Only one, the Veteran's Assistance Foundation, used over ten percent of their profits for benefitting others. They stood out on the list at 10.5 percent.

Among this list were some memorable names, as well. It wasn't just comprised of small, nobody charities that people had never heard of. Coming in 41st was Find the Children, whose mission is supposed to be preventing child abuse and recovering missing children.

Slots 38, 4 and 2 were all filled with notable breast cancer charities. When I showed the list to my mother, she just shook her head. She said, "When your aunt got sick five years ago, she did some research on her own, too. It's sad to see that things still haven't changed."

Thankfully, not all is lost. There are decent charities out there. The website CharityNavigator keeps tabs on a lot of charities and evaluates them based on

how much of their profits go to aid.

Charities like Susan G. Komen and Wounded Warriors give over 80 percent of their profits to their respected causes. While it may not be 100 percent, we need to keep in mind that they have expenses, too. Fundraising isn't cheap, after all.

I asked my friends in high school what they thought an acceptable balance would be.

"No less than 75 percent," Sam, a senior, replied. "Any less, and I would feel like I might as well hand my money to the CEO myself."

I asked several others if they this an acceptable balance, and most thought it was. There were a few, however, that thought it should be higher.

I know our world isn't perfect, and no matter what, not everyone will always do the right thing. But something like that is easy to forget, and that's what ends up enabling the before in the end. So here's my advice to anyone who plans on donating to a charity in the future:

- Wait
- Do your research
- Make sure you know where your money is going

And then slip a dollar into the charity fund and smile, knowing you've just helped to make the world a better place.

A breath of fresh air



BY WILLIAM LEWANDOWSKI
lewandowwi@mnstate.edu

Electronic cigarettes and vape have been newsworthy lately. They cause an odor that is not desired by nonsmokers; people do not want the vapor in public areas. The unknown effects of the electronic cigarettes are stirring concerns in government and the medical field. Many states have already declared no smoking within a certain distance of buildings, and this mandate includes electronic cigarette devices.

There is nothing wrong with vaping. There are many flavors that appeal to anyone's tastes. Flavors can contain nicotine, but they do not have to, which makes them a wonderful device for smokers to ease into quitting. Currently, they do not serve as a major health threat. There is no reason to worry.

To begin, vaping is the smoking of an electronic device. Vape comes in many different flavors of juice such as tobacco, fruity flavors and energy drink flavors. The wide variety provides an inclusion of anyone's desires, whether that be a natural cigarette flavor, a potent licorice or a breath cooling mint. For my personal usage, "Yummy Gummy" and "Pezz" are my go-to flavors; they make me feel good. For those nights when it is a relaxing, take-in-everything kind of moment, chocolate-mint or winterberry are the flavors for me. It is a great way to unwind and let my body be calm.

The main problem people have is with the vapor. Yes, there is a scent with vape, and if you

were to go into my truck, it probably smells like I threw ten different scented car trees in it. Most of the scents, I think, are not really that disturbing. Some are even nice to have around, like the cinnamon bun scent.

There is not much in vape juice. There are four key ingredients listed on the side of any bottle of juice: water, flavoring, vegetable glycerin and nicotine. Other than the nicotine content, there is no other body altering drugs within the vape juice, and why should there be?

Water is water, no need to worry there. Flavoring is in many everyday foods and beverages like soda, chips and lattes. Vegetable glycerin is obtained in the vegetables we eat. I do not see any cause to worry, aside from the effects of nicotine.

And there may be a cure to that drug in the e-cig's themselves. They make them with different nicotine levels, including zero milligrams of nicotine. For those with a large hankering for nicotine, the highest level is 24 milligrams.

The varying of nicotine levels can become a great tool for someone who is trying to quit normal cigarettes, which are filled with carcinogens and chemicals. Lowering the levels of nicotine in the juices as time goes on will soon aid the smoker in reaching zero milligrams of nicotine. Once one starts smoking zero milligram vape juice, they will only be inhaling vegetable glycerin, flavoring and water.

Since e-cigarettes and vaping are so new, stepping into the limelight within the past decade, the long-term effects have not been capable of study or research.

Before I chose to start vaping, I did my own research and found little evidence of negative results, except for the nicotine content. Basically, the three ingredients of a zero nicotine bottle of juice are found in everyday consumables, which is why I do not see a threat in the e-cigarettes.

I have found e-cigarettes to be relaxing, not in a drug-induced way, but as great way to ease the mind and have a mental break without filling your body with drugs, carpet glue, rat poison and other cancer causing chemicals found in regular cigarettes.

Who knows, in 25 years, I could be completely wrong and riddled with cancer, but until the proof is made clear from medical researchers that no-nicotine electronic cigarette devices are harmful to the body, I am going to continue my use of vape (off campus of course).



Interested in being a columnist or cartoonist?
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The opinions expressed in The Advocate are not necessarily those of the college administration, faculty or student body.

The Advocate encourages letters to the editor and any submissions. They should be typed and must include the writer's name, signature, address, phone number, year in school or occupation, and any affiliations. Letters are due by 5 p.m. Friday and can be sent to MSUM Box 130, dropped off in The Advocate office or emailed to advocate@mnstate.edu.



Story idea?
advocate@mnstate.edu

A&E



Students dancing to Powerplay DJs at 2010's Halloween dance. AfterDark has been hosting the event since the organization's beginning.

MICHAEL DOWNS • downsmi@mnstate.edu

BY LAURA BAIER
baierla@mnstate.edu

Stores push costumes and candy, lawns sprout jack-o'-lanterns, and students buzz about their Halloween costume plans. All the while, AfterDark's full-time staff and student volunteers are busy planning a safe and fun night for Dragons.

To kick off the holiday, the Dragon Entertainment Group will be hosting "Spooky Halloween Grocery Bag Bingo" on Wednesday night. Students will be able to enjoy some halloween treats, play bingo and have a chance to win groceries, as well as a prize for best costume. Bingo will take place in the CMU Ballroom 7 – 10 p.m.

Friday night, AfterDark is hosting a Halloween dance 9 p.m. – 1 a.m. at Kise Commons. K-Hook Pirate Radio is DJing the event.

"Bumpin' the Night" offers Halloween-themed food, activities, games, prizes, music, and a costume contest.

"We have a lot of creative activities for the event other than just the costume contest and the dance itself," said Garrett Anderson, a graduate assistant on the AfterDark staff. "It'll be a lot of fun."

AfterDark is partnering with Sodexo and Kise for this event, and staff "is having a lot of fun advertising, decorating and pulling pranks on students to get them excited for Halloween," said Erin Edinger, AfterDark graduate assistant.

Staff members aren't the only ones looking forward to the event.

"I'm excited because it's a fun and safe place to go on Halloween," said freshman Caitlin Fisher. She and three friends will be bumpin' the night as Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.

When doors open at 9 p.m., AfterDark hopes to see everyone there dressed in their best costume.

AfterDark advisor Mitch Johnson looks forward to helping AfterDark members with planning the Halloween dance every year.

"People get so into the event," Johnson said. "Everyone dresses up, eats a lot of fun and unique food, and we always have such a great turnout."

AfterDark has been hosting the Halloween dance since the start of the organization about eight years ago.

For more information about upcoming events, go to AfterDark's Facebook page or webpage at mnstate.edu/afterdark/events.aspx.

AfterDark is a once-a-month late-night programming activity designed to provide positive entertainment options on weekends.





Students signing up for the costume contest at last year's Dragons AfterDark Halloween dance.

MICHAEL DOWNS • downsmi@mnstate.edu



Meghan Feir (left) and Melanie Lang (right) dancing at last year's event.

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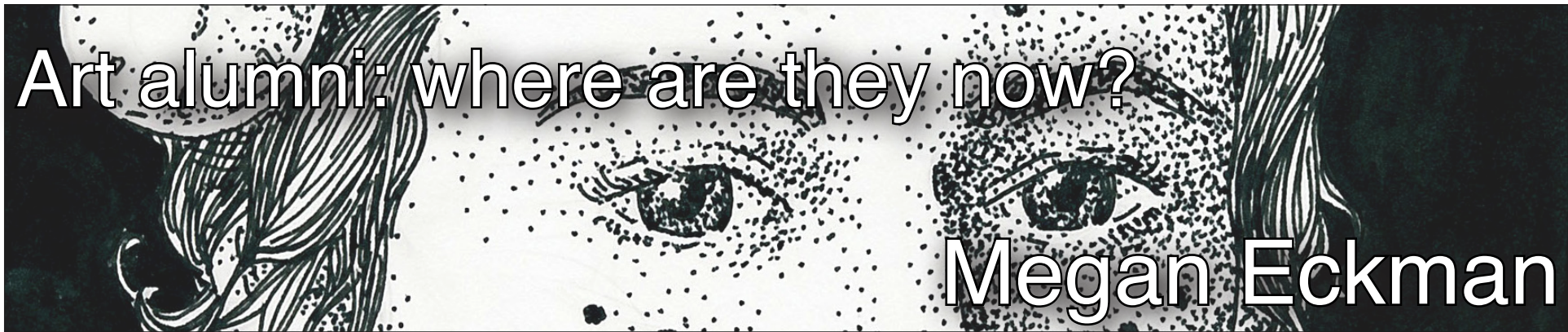
  

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SUBMITTED ARTWORK

Eckman's piece titled "Lady Roanoke."
An admirer of the tale of the colony and Lady of Roanoke, Eckman's illustration is made entirely of pen and ink.



Megan Eckman

BY NARJES ALBAKSHY
albakshyna@mnstate.edu

"Rekindle your wonder" is a quote Megan Eckman lives by. As a 2009 graduate from MSUM, she left the Fargo-Moorhead area with degrees in arts and creative writing under her belt, ditched her heavy winter coats and snow boots and headed to sunny California to pursue what she loves the most in life – art.

What constitutes art is vague and limitless, and Eckman is proof of that. Her talent, creativity and passion have led her to create many forms of art, which include paintings, graphic designs, embroidery and writing.

Eckman's writing goes hand-in-hand with her illustrations and vice versa. She is the author of the 2013 self-published book, "How to Outsmart Tea Pirates (and Other Useful Sailing Tips)." The book includes nautical-themed short stories, poems and illustrations. Next year, Eckman will be publishing a book featuring a fictional museum and its art collections based from her imagination.

"Writing plays a huge part of my business," Eckman said. "The writing skills I learned at MSUM enable me to write stellar sales pages, guest blog posts, content for my shop, and even silly stories that I share with my fans in my weekly newsletter."

While Eckman's books fill up bookcases (and hard drives) nationwide, she simultaneously focuses on embroidery. "One night I decided to turn one of my illustrations into an embroidery piece out

"The thing I miss most about MSUM is the constant critiquing and the feeling of uninterrupted inspiration."

of boredom," Eckman said.

Utilizing social media to promote her work, Eckman developed her hobby of embroidery into an artistic business. "I posted the finished piece on Instagram and suddenly all of my fans wanted to stitch it."

Embroidery patterns of her illustrations include animals, sea creatures, Midwestern wildlife, West Coast landmarks and architecture. In the next two weeks, a new set of East Coast landmark stitching templates will be released.

Her embroidery pattern templates are available on her website, studiomme.com, featured in modcloth.com and in her Etsy.com shop.

Eckman is featured in "Stitch Along," a lark book published in 2014, among nine talented embroidery artists, which inspires designs for fellow embroiders. Additionally, she is releasing a few e-books of embroidery patterns this year.

Having an art degree is not limited to one field. Eckman also had an opportunity to

incorporate art with the latest technology.

"In 2013 I had the pleasure of creating artwork for the release of an app that Google launched called Fieldtrip," she said.

In addition, her newest stitching projects will allow embroidery enthusiasts to use wood instead of fabric for stitching, using laser technology.

The success of Eckman's career stems from the basics: her education at MSUM.

"The fine art and creative writing skills that I learned while at MSUM could not have been picked up in the real world without about 10 times the amount of work and months," she said.

"The thing I miss most about MSUM is the constant critiquing and the feeling of uninterrupted inspiration," she said. "When you pack so many creative people together in classrooms, sparks are always flying and you can't help but come up with ideas."

With the upcoming, innovative projects Eckman is working on for the holiday season and New Year, her goal is to reach a six-figure income to solemnize her success after five years of graduation.

Eckman's innovation, hard work and creativity portrayed in her cozy, imaginative artistic endeavors, can surely rekindle any wonder.



SUBMITTED ARTWORK

Eckman's piece titled "Mynah Bird."
This design is a wallpaper pattern of the Mynah bird. "The background eludes to the complicated wallpaper backgrounds the Pre-Raphaelites loved and I simply juxtapositioned an indoor form of art with an outdoor creature and its habitat," Eckman said.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Eckman's piece titled "Coney Island's Cyclone and Portland's Mount Hood."
Eckman's stitching templates are based on her illustrations of landmarks she had visited or is simply drawn to.



SUBMITTED ARTWORK

Eckman's piece titled "Telegram Lady."

"I found a whole box full of telegrams in a used bookstore and the owner had no idea where they came from so he gave the whole box to me for \$5," said Eckman. "They were flower orders from a flower shop to their wholesale buyer telling them how many of each type of flower they needed that week. Mundane. Ordinary. Yet, it's an 'archaic' technology to us nowadays. I love ephemeral things so I used acrylic paint and ink to create the image of the woman on top, dressed in a flower dress that appears flat, like wallpaper."

Features

Reception celebrates 13th edition of “American Fiction”

BY KRISTIN MILLER
millerkr@mnstate.edu

Wine, cheese, and good literature are all hallmarks of a successful book launch party, and are all on the agenda for an upcoming event to be hosted by New Rivers Press.

On Thursday, Oct. 30 at 7 p.m. will see a reception and author reading for “American Fiction: Volume 13” at the Rourke Art Gallery in Moorhead.

Suzanne Kelley, managing editor for New Rivers Press, called the event a “mini-launch,” with the book’s official debut forthcoming this April at the annual conference for the Association of Writers and Writing Programs, taking place this year in Minneapolis.

“American Fiction” features 20 short stories from new and emerging authors, and covers a wide range of experience, culture, and subject matter.

“They all have some American connection,” Kelley said, adding that during her time at the press she has seen submitted work from countries including Canada, New Zealand, Korea, and Sweden.

The reception will include readings by at least three of the book’s featured

authors, all hailing from Minnesota. The artistic connection to the state also led some financial support for costs of hosting the event.

The Lake Region Arts Council, which works to support arts in west-central Minnesota, has designated a grant to cover the cost of reserving the space at the Rourke, along with providing an honorarium for the visiting writers.

“They feel very strongly about supporting the artist, in this case literary artists,” Kelley said. “They want to support events in Minnesota.”

These literary artists include Terry Ruud, Beth Mayer and John Zdrzil, whose “Winter Burial” was selected as the first place piece for the collection. Zdrzil also took home the \$1000 prize awarded to the winning author for each volume.

Though the stories chosen for publication were selected by an expert judge and compiled by a general editor for the collection, much of the work preparing the volume fell to students in Kelley’s certificate in publishing program. Additionally, students in the graphic design program were responsible for laying out the pages and designing a cover. The process was a learning opportunity for all involved, with

students taking away valuable experience and portfolio work to help them land jobs after graduation.

The following day, Oct. 31, New Rivers Press will be hosting the second part of the event, titled “Publish Your Shorts!,” at the Moorhead Public Library. The event is geared to help writers learn a few tips for when it comes to the sometimes difficult process of getting their works published.

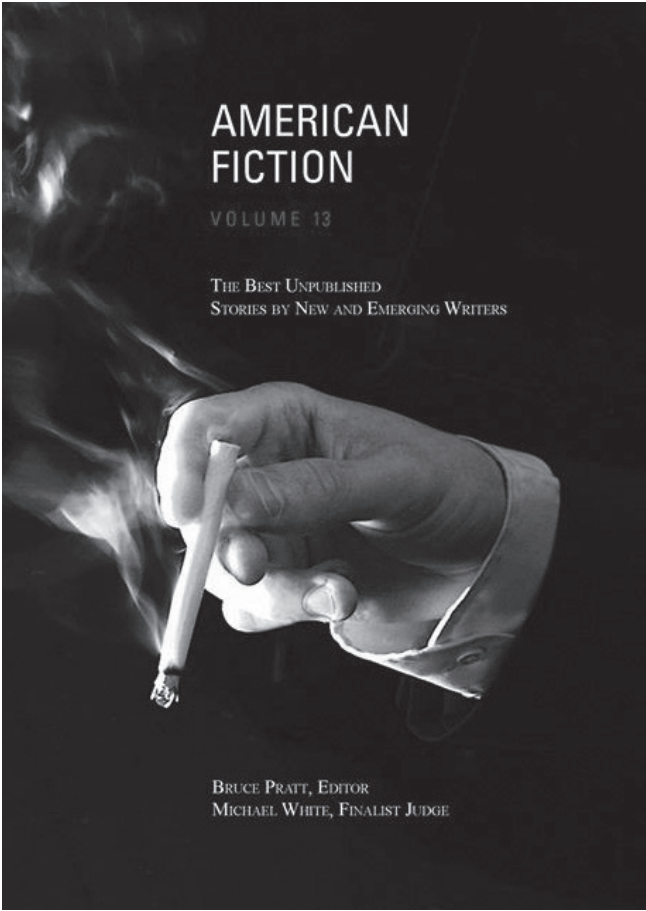
“The authors will talk about the process of writing short stories and the process of publishing,” Kelley said, adding that she will also be speaking on the different avenues New Rivers Press presents for new and emerging authors to see their works published.

The workshop is limited to 20 people, so she encourages interested participants to reserve a spot.

Kelley hopes to see a good turnout for both events.

“We would love for people to come and see what the writers are doing, take a look and see what the students are doing, come and celebrate with us,” she said.

Those interested in attending can contact Kelley at kelleysu@mnstate.edu. The workshop and reception are both free to attend.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

“American Fiction: Volume 13” was released this fall. Its creation gave MSUM students real-world experience in the publishing business.

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Features

FM area hosts a variety of Halloween events

BY ALEXA GERBER
gerberal@mnstate.edu

In case the neighbor’s decorations didn’t make it obvious, Halloween is fast approaching. For some, that means it’s time to track down that old copy of “Hocus Pocus” and plan an all night movie marathon. For others, there’s a Dragons After Dark event to look forward to. Fargo-Moorhead also offers some spooky off-campus events to enjoy.

Ten miles south of Moorhead are two uniquely terrifying events — the Haunted Farm and the Haunted Corn Maze.

The farm’s website boasts “15 energetic and spine-tingling haunted attractions, and a most hair-raising walk through the dark and dangerous woods.”

This year, farm-goers can experience a 45-minute guided tour through their haunted house and insane clown room, and a lovely stroll through the Haunted Woods.

The farm is open from 7 – 11 the night of Halloween. Tickets are \$15 each, but for an extra \$5, attendees can skip the line. The farm is located at 1947 130th Ave. S. in Moorhead. For more information and a coupon for \$2 off admission, check out their website at hauntedfarm.com.

The Corn Maze challenges attendees to make it out in one piece, and in its 15th year, the event is sure to feature some new surprises. For those keen on jump-scares, decorative fall items are also for sale at the event.



A character at Acres of Terror poses for a photo.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

The maze is open from 7 p.m. – 12 a.m. on Halloween and Nov. 1 (though participants must be at the gate by 11 p.m.). Tickets are \$15 for ages 12 and older, and \$13 for kids 11 and younger. The Corn Maze is located at 12747 3rd St. S. in Moorhead. For more information, visit hauntedcornmaze.com.

Looking for more scares in the Red River Valley? Fright-fanatics can travel to Leonard, N.D. for Acres of Terror. Featuring a cast

of freaky characters including a werewolf bus driver, a diabolical mass murderer, and a sociopathic clown, Acres of Terror employs a number of scary locations including an abandoned schoolhouse and an equally terrifying bus ride between them all.

Adult passes for Acres of Terror are \$20 each, youth 10 and under are \$12, military passes (including veterans) are \$18, and groups of 30 or more are \$15 each. Located

16 miles south of Casselton on ND Highway 18, this frightening attraction is open Halloween and the day after from “dusk til midnight.” For more information, visit acresofterror.net.

But the faint of heart need not be left out of the Halloween fun. A campus-wide Trick-or-Canning event is looking for volunteers to go door-to-door collecting canned goods. Anyone interested should meet in the CMU Main Lounge at

4:45.

Oct. 30 will also see Housing and Residential Life’s inaugural Trunk or Treat event in Lot G-6 from 5:30 – 8 p.m. Students and organizations will decorate cars and hand out candy to the community. The affair will include a carnival, refreshments, and the Dragon Express. For more information, or to participate, email Lindsay Marosi at marosili@mnstate.edu.

Have fun, and stay safe.



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Features

Drunk driving crash survivor shares story with athletes

BY TRENT ZBICHORSKI
zbichorstr@mnstate.edu

One poor decision changed her life forever. On Aug. 23, 2003, Sara Panzau was found lifeless on Interstate 64 in East St. Louis, Mo. Her 1996 green Saturn had flipped four times and finally came to rest in the middle of the Interstate, upside down with all of the windows busted out.

When police and ambulances arrived at the scene, she didn't have blood pressure or a pulse, and was no longer bleeding. Clumps of her hair and skin were found attached to the guardrail. Right before authorities were going to report the death of a young woman, she showed a sign of life. She was immediately transported to St. Louis University Hospital by helicopter. But how did this happen?

Panzau shared her powerful story with MSUM athletes, students, and community members. The event was free and made mandatory for all MSUM student athletes.

Prior to the accident, Panzau was a three-year varsity starter for her high school volleyball team. She had 18 different colleges trying to get her to attend their school.

"Drugs and alcohol were never a huge issue for me in high school," Panzau said. "I had a wide range of colleges try and recruit me."

She ended up accepting a scholarship to Southwestern Illinois College, where she played volleyball for two years. During her time playing volleyball in college, she received awards.

"I was freshman of the year in volleyball," Panzau said. "I was also a two-time national ranked all American college

volleyball player."

However, she didn't attend college for the same reason many of us do.

"I went to college to play volleyball," Panzau said. "I hated studying. I ended up dropping out my sophomore year of college."

The decision to drop out of college led her to a new way of living. It was a lifestyle that she began to pursue when she was only 19 years old.

"I bartended underage and ended up drinking and partying all the time," Panzau said. "I lived like I would never die and I pushed my family so far out of the way that I didn't care about them."

When she was 21 years old, a night with friends turned into a nightmare for her and her family. She made decisions that led her "to the inevitable."

"All my 'true friends' watched me stumble out of the bar that night, barely able to walk on my own two feet," Panzau said.

Little did she know that her blood alcohol content was of .308, almost four times the legal limit.

"I made the choice to get behind the wheel," said Panzau. "I'm not blaming anyone."

The poor decision she made that night resulted in a car accident that only involved her. It left her with a nearly non-existent chance of survival. Not to mention, she sustained many injuries, leading to a procedure to amputate her left arm.

"I wasn't wearing a seat belt and they found me hanging out of the driver's window," Panzau said. "I fractured each vertebra in my back, dislocated my left leg, broke my left hip.

Everywhere from my knee down on my left leg was twisted all the way around."

Not one single 'friend' who watched her leave the bar drunk showed up at the hospital.

"I had to learn who my true friends were the absolute hardest way possible," Panzau said. "It was never supposed to happen to a girl like me."

The crash made her become aware of who was there for her while she was struggling for her life.

"I realized that my family is my number one priority — my mom is number one," Panzau said. "Take a hold of what you have, not what you don't have because those are the people that will be there for you."

Despite all of her injuries, Panzau thinks she looks just fine. "Our differences are what makes us beautiful," Panzau said. "I hope everyone thinks about that before they decide to judge someone else."

She made sure to share a piece of advice to those in attendance. She hopes to prevent it from happening to anyone else.

"When you guys go out, you have to have a plan," Panzau said. "You have people there for you and you have friends to help you out if you are ever in that situation. I never thought about the long term consequences that I had to face."

After spending 77 days in a hospital and having 38 surgeries in 11 years, she lives to tell her story to junior high and high school students.

"I signed with Anheuser Busch to be a part of the AB Speakers Bureau," Panzau said. "It allows me to share my story with students from coast to coast."

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Cosplay: more than just dress up

FACEBOOK

BY ZANA POMMIER

pommierza@mnstate.edu

Many of us spend a lifetime becoming comfortable in our own skin, but taking on the persona of someone we admire can be as simple as creating a costume.

While some people cringe at the idea of adults dressing up as comic book, manga or anime characters, others take pride in the hobby.

"Cosplaying has given me an incredible sense of self-confidence and fulfillment," said Yannis Tomko, a sophomore and occasional cosplayer at MSUM. "Working hours and hours into a project that you're attached to makes you feel happy when others recognize your character."

From the outside, cosplay may seem like playing dress-up. But for those who participate, it goes far beyond that. In a study done by the Journal of Cult Media, the top three of four reasons people chose to cosplay included identification with their character. These included psychological characteristics, some aspects of the characters history and the character's physical appearance.

The study points out that people may feel similarities between themselves and a character, and then decide to take on the entire appearance and persona of a character.

"A lot of anime has characters that have traits or skills we find admirable," Tomko said. "Cosplaying them is sort of like a tribute to the character, we're showing how awesome they are to others that might not know about them."

People wear outfits that range from completely store-bought to completely handcrafted masterpieces. Many cosplayers enjoy the work they put into creating a costume, and find that as a hobby in itself. Others don't enjoy getting crafty, but think a great costume is worth putting the work into.

"Most outfits start with a base of a shirt and pants,

which I buy. After that most things are made out of cosplay materials. I wouldn't say that making the outfit is fun. It can take hours to make a single gauntlet, but the end result is always satisfying," Tomko said.

The study notes that the most common reason people cosplay is "fun." However, shows like "Heroes of Cosplay" display competitive cosplayers who spend endless hours creating costumes and competing at conventions for large sums of prize money. Although some people do try to turn the hobby into a part-time job, it's important to note that the media blows people's fun into out-of-proportion catty drama shows.

As opposed to what the media portrays, most people don't turn against each other, and instead view cosplaying as a fun social activity and thrive by meeting new people at conventions.

"The best part of gratitude for me is going to conventions and having other cosplayers or fans recognize the character," Tomko said. "Meeting people who like the animes and characters we like is a great feeling."

Despite cosplay being a therapeutic hobby, it has adversaries. The opposers' reasons range from disconnections from reality to promoting oversexualization.

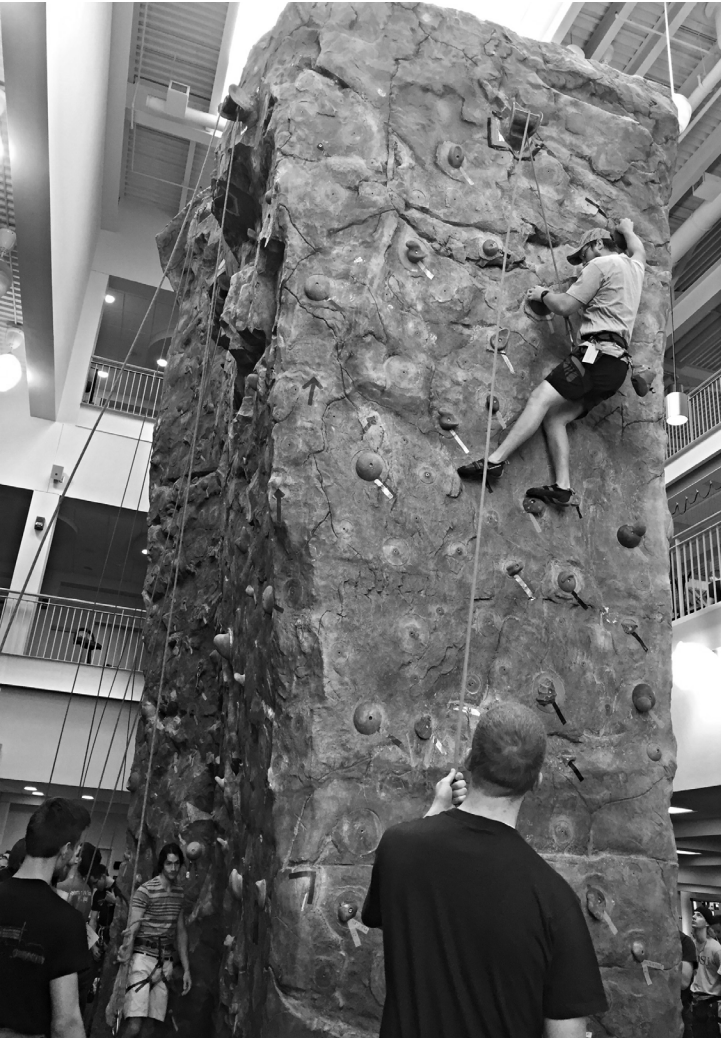
"I wish there were more female characters [in anime] to define by their character than by their breast size," said junior Jessica Lindstrom. "It's not an issue with the cosplayers themselves, it's with the design of the characters."

Cosplayers are aware that some people don't appreciate their hobby, but like anything else, cosplay will always receive criticism.

"For those of us who enjoy anime, its difficult for us to explain just how passionate we are and how much we enjoy it" Tomko said. "Like a football fan who lives for Sundays and cheers on their favorite team, many of us choose to show our love of anime by cosplaying our favorite characters."

Sports

Dragon climbers participate in NDSU competition



BY TURNER BLAUFUSS
blaufuss@mnstate.edu

The MSUM Rock Climbing Club competed at the North Dakota State University Wallman Wellness Center Saturday with multiple climbers advancing to the final rounds. In the second year of the club's existence, the Dragons reached many milestones in the competition.

"Rock climbing is a fun sport and it's one of those sports where if you try it once you'll be hooked," club president Brooke Kosloski said. "We competed very well—definitely a lot better than we thought we would."

The rock climbers compete in five events this year and get in a lot of time practicing. Even when it's not rock-related, the team still sticks closely together. What started as a group of 10 close friends with a hobby, has expanded into a 17-member family.

"We just said 'Hey let's make a club; let's get T-shirts and let's get jackets— Let's just go all out,'" Kosloski said. "We're just a big family. We do everything together."

NDSU's competition

included their team, MSUM, Bismarck State and University of North Dakota climbers. In a rock climbing competition there are 10 routes to climb and the athletes have three hours to do as many as they can. The three highest scorers advance to the finals round, which had never been done by a Dragon before Saturday.

Kosloski became the first Dragon climber to make it to the finals and place as she took home third place in overall competition to lead the Dragons.

"It was kind of shocking I got called in that I made finals," Kosloski said. "I got white faced for sure. It was nerve-racking and it shows how much progress we've made in just two years of having a team."

Kate Sullivan took home the gold in the women's beginner division with Taylor Kasprzak finishing a spot behind. Kayla Middendorf and Ben Frericks

picked up first place in their respective intermediate divisions. Michael Pittman rounded out the finishers with first in the men's beginner finals.

"We definitely have a lot of talent on our team this year," Kosloski said. "It's great motivation to do this well and it's a great fire under our butts to motivate us to keep trying to get better and place higher."

The Dragons' next competition is Saturday, Nov. 22 at the Grand Forks Mall.

The Dragons all got hooked on rock climbing at the wellness center on campus and encourage any and all students to come have fun on the wall and are always welcome to new teammates.

"We climb to have fun and have a lot of fun while we're climbing," Kosloski said. "Come climb the rock wall at the wellness center. Meet us and let's have some fun."

LEWIS GRANT • grantle@mnstate.edu
MSUM climber Dean Parvi works on his grip at NDSU.

Dragon Madness kicks off basketball season

BY TOMI THOMPSON
thompsono@mnstate.edu

Last Tuesday night, Alex Nemzek Fieldhouse was filled with Dragon fans as the men's and women's basketball teams took to the court for a night of Dragon Madness.

The third annual Dragon Madness introduced the teams to fans, as well as showcasing fan promotions and giveaways that will take place during the season.

To kick off the night, both teams' lineups and coaches were introduced to fans, followed by captains Jordan Riewer and Savannah Handevitdt saying a few words about expectations for their upcoming season.

Next up, Jon Wepking, assistant athletic director for marketing and productions, pumped up the crowd by showcasing some of the promotions for the upcoming season.

"The fun part that makes it different from similar events is that it is a good avenue for us to show all of the new and returning promotions and really show people all of the interactive things that we do at the games, as well as give them a little sample of the talent that they are going to see out of our teams," he said.

Wepking said their partnership with Valley Imports will have some amazing promotions for this season, including cash prizes and a vehicle giveaway.

"Valley Imports wants someone to win something big this year, and our guaranteed win games will make sure that that happens," said Wepking.

MSUM student Cara Zastrow was impressed with the events at Dragon Madness. "I got to sit with other students and athletes while cheering for both basketball teams and got to reminisce a little about my high school basketball days," she said.

Zastrow was also selected off Twitter to participate in the three point contest with the women's basketball team. "I was teamed up with one of the other players, and we were neck and neck with one of the other contestants. I had fun!" Zastrow said.

The highlight of the night was the men's basketball dunk contest. For the second time in his career as a Dragon, junior Evan Holt took home the hardware as dunk contest champion.

"Going in, I didn't have much of a strategy," said Holt. Missing a couple of his first dunk attempts, Holt was able to wow the judges with his final attempt by jumping over seated basketball team manager Brandon Tharp and nailing the dunk.

"It's a little bit of bragging rights," said Holt.

Both coaches and players appreciate the opportunities that Dragon Madness gives them to showcase their team and interact with fans.

"First of all, I think

it's again a great way to showcase women's and men's basketball," said women's head basketball coach Karla Nelson. "It gives the students and whoever else attends a chance to get to kind of see them in a non-competitive setting in a way, see the student athletes in a different light. It's just an early introduction to what the season has in store for us. The other thing is for us to show fans our appreciation and I think our fans need to make this the toughest place to play in the league."

Men's basketball player Ngijol Songolo says Dragon Madness is a great way to kick off their season.

"It's great to see all our fans out here," he said. "Hopefully this season, there will be a lot of wins and some exciting basketball."

To women's basketball team members Morgan Banasik and Megan Roehrich, Dragon Madness lets everyone interact with the team and the whole basketball community. They appreciate the continued support all throughout the season and hope to see big crowds at this year's games.

Another exciting addition to this upcoming season is being able to watch Dragon Basketball on TV this year - Channels WDAY's XTRA 6.3, Midcontinent 596, and Cable One 1029, and all live online streaming allow fans many avenues to watch and support Dragon Basketball.

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News

ECLIPSE, FROM FRONT



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Astronomy professor Juan Cabanella views the solar eclipse through a solar-filtered telescope at Thursday's eclipse viewing party.

VOTING, FROM FRONT

Voters who do not provide proper identification or registration forms cannot vote. To prevent confusion on Election Day, Minnesota voters are encouraged to pre-register with all proper information.

MSUM will host a voting location in the CMU on Election Day, for those registered to vote in this area.

Though North Dakota does not require voters registration, all North Dakotan voters must have proper identification. Acceptable forms of ID in North Dakota are:

1. A government issued state ID, tribal ID, or driver's license.

2. A student ID certificate
3. Valid long-term care certificate.

Regardless of location, the right and privilege to vote should be observed by all qualified U.S. citizens. No citizen should feel unprepared; there is an array of tools voters can use to prepare for Election Day. For more information about state-specific voting laws, regulations, or to find a site in your hometown, visit the Secretary of State website for said state. For Minnesota, visit mnvotes.sos.mn.us. For North Dakota visit vip.sos.nd.us.

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—Bill Bergquist



218.331.5065
PO Box 562, Dilworth, MN 56529
SheriffBergquist2014@midco.net
*Paid for by Bill Bergquist